

Centralized Power Sources Activity
8 January 1975

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Background

By memorandum (DDS&T #1899-72) of 21 June 1972 Carl E. Duckett, DDS&T, established a number of Permanent Panels to provide support for the Agency's Technical Coordinating Committee chaired by Dr. Donald S. Steininger, ADDS&T. Power Sources Panel membership was:

[redacted]	Chairman, ORD	25X1
[redacted]	OTS	
[redacted]	O/C	25X1
[redacted]	OEL	25X1

Panels were charged with the responsibility to maintain a continuous overview of the assigned area producing reports as required. Points to be assessed were:

- A. A statement of long-range technical objectives.
- B. An inventory and assessment of current capability within the Agency.
- C. An inventory of on-going and programmed RD&E programs.
- D. An evaluation of the adequacy of these programs to include:
 - (1) Existing technologic opportunities which should be but are not currently funded or programmed.
 - (2) Limiting technologic gaps for which no solution is currently foreseen.
 - (3) Identification and explanation of desirable redundancies which may exist in the program.

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- (4) Identification of Programs which are unnecessarily duplicative.
- (5) Identification of policy, political or internal organizational problems, which limit the effectiveness of the program.

The Report of the Panel on Power Sources to the Technical Coordination Committee, dated 18 October 1972, presented full treatment of points A through D above. Recommendations were offered on Policy, Program, Resources, and Communication leading to the subject of Organization and the establishment of a centralized Power Source Activity. The proposal was developed in-depth but there was no specific treatment of its placement in the Agency structure.

Implementation

In the Fall of 1973 Dr. Steininger requested that John McMahon, D/OTS, evaluate the concept of a Centralized Power Sources Program and submit his recommendation. If favorable, Mr. McMahon was further asked to prepare plans for its implementation. Two new studies were made. One resulted in a memorandum dated 6 November 1973 to the D/OTS from C/OTS/CB. This action proposed the mission, scope and organization of a Centralized Power Sources Activity. The second, independent study led to a report dated 26 February 1974 by ORD. It offered an up-date of the earlier Panel report, reviewed its conclusions and recommendations and finally assessed the proposition of a Centralized Power Sources Program, its organization and implementation. The substantive recommendation was:

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It is recommended that Management action be taken to authorize and implement an Agency-wide Energy Program within the Office of Technical Service to provide a specialized, technical support capability for all user components.

Activation

On 2 May 1974 Dr. Steininger called a meeting at which D/OTS briefed representatives of DDS&T, OEL, ORD and OD&E on the proposed Centralized Activity.

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There was concurrence by the Office Chiefs attending that the plan should be implemented within OTS as presented and without further delay. Three points deserve notice. Firstly, ORD retained its freedom to conduct exploratory R&D in the power source field but with the recognition of the need to thoroughly coordinate its projects with the Centralized Power Source Activity. Secondly, OD&E indicated that for programmatic and funding reasons their activities of the OSP type would fall outside of the scope of the Centralized Program. Thirdly, OEL's concern about systems' responsibilities lead to an understanding that Project Managers would make their own determinations with regard to the manner and extent to which Power Sources personnel participated in their projects.

Pursuant to the findings at the 2 May meeting, Dr. Steininger authorized the establishment of the Centralized Power Sources Activity within OTS. Mr. McMahon assigned the responsibility to D&E Division and the Chemistry Branch. CB took immediate action to carry-out its broadened responsibility by formalizing its organization, procedures and programming coincident with the start of FY-75 on 1 July 1974.

FY-75 Technical Program

The approved FY-75 program and budget were based upon OTS technical requirements. Accordingly, no major new project has been initiated on behalf of any other Office. On the other hand, certain OTS projects have a component character and have, therefore, been pursued to produce wider benefits than originally scoped. Specific illustrations are lithium cells and flexible batteries.

Programming of the power sources activities was cast in a Management by Objectives (MBO) framework to insure consideration being given to all areas of need. Table 1 presents this structure and the dollar amounts programmed in each goal area.

FY-75 Consulting and Supporting Actions

- (a) There has been extensive internal liaison to both establish priority requirements and to insure that the role of the Centralized Power Sources Activity is known and its services used. Major continuing contacts are with OEL, ORD, OD&E/EG, DIV D and OSI.

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- (b) Brief sheets issued by the Power Information Center of the Interagency Advanced Power Group have provided the back-drop for interagency technical visits at ECOM, NSWC, AFAPL, HDL, NASA Labs, NAD/Crane and others. [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] 25X1
- (c) Visits to power source R, D, T&E contractors have been made to broaden the base to aid in providing consulting services to Agency groups.
- (d) An informal news-letter called Power Source Notes has been established (Attachment 1). Distributed in some fourteen copies, the Notes communicate findings of liaison visits, contractor visits and of technical meetings to in-house personnel involved in any phase of power source technology.
- (e) Direct technical support is being given to the Project Managers of [REDACTED] systems [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] 25X1 through review and analysis of planned power systems, test data or proposals.
- (f) Open House meetings at the Branch's Test and Evaluation Facility at [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] introduced interested staff personnel to this capability. Requests for data and consultative support were immediate results, particularly from the OED unit of OD&E (formerly Commo R&D). Power Sources recommendations have been made. 25X1
- (g) A series of briefings by ORD personnel on their [REDACTED] project is under-way. The intent is to reach developers and operational personnel. 25X1
- (h) Information obtained from [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] provided the input to identify consumer batteries available in foreign markets for radio applications. The material has been distributed to Commo sources (original requestors) and by dispatch to [REDACTED] 25X1

- (i) DC/OTS/OPS, C/OTS/PB, D/ORD, DC/OD&E, D/OEL, DC/OSI and C/OD&E/EG were all briefed on the Power Sources Program and their support solicited and received for the implementation of a Power Sources Activity Group (Attachment 2). This group represents the Agency's Analysts, Developers, and Consumers of Power Sources. It will meet quarterly for the purposes of information exchange and discussion of program priorities/objectives. [redacted] will chair the Group. 25X1
- (j) At the Army Material Command's biennial Power Sources Conference some four technical papers were the direct result of OTS supported activities. 25X1

(k) [redacted] 25X1

FY-76 Planning

FY-76 technical programming currently anticipates an increase in funds [redacted] which will be generally applied to goal areas outside of the historical interests of OTS. Emphasis will be directed to ambient energy sources, to solar arrays, to flexible cells, to lithium cell usage, to RTG's, to sensor sources and to secondary cell technology. Special attention will be given to the means of procurement and certification of power sources bought in small quantities and in a "non-production" situation to upgrade user's confidence in the operational performance to be expected. 25X1

Summary

During the initial six months of activity the OTS power program has taken on the form and character of a Centralized Power Program. Technical programming, and particularly programming for future budget cycles, is now broad-based and responsive to filling technical gaps and working on priority needs. During the transition period mechanisms have been established for technical exchanges encompassing all interested Agency components. Substantive technical support is being provided to technical projects in OEL, OD&E, ORD, DIV D, [redacted] in addition to maintaining the usual involvement in OTS projects. 25X1

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POWER SOURCE NOTES
6 September 1974

The Power Source Activity (PSA) within the Chemical Branch (CB) of the Development and Engineering Division (DED) of the Office of Technical Services (OTS) maintains continuing liaison with governmental, academic, institutional and industrial organizations active in the power sources and energy conversion fields. Much information is obtained which has a potential value to various groups within the Agency.

It is planned that informal Power Source Notes be distributed to those offices known to have an active interest. These notes will be brief and will frequently contain privileged information. To protect sources and to insure full understanding of any given note, it is requested that your officers check with PSA before making direct contact on an activity reported upon.

The Power Source Notes will be prepared on a situational basis and will not conform to any schedule. It is hoped that distribution of this programmatic and technical information will produce increase communications amongst staff members active in the field and will result in supplying PSA with leads or questions warranting evaluation.

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3 December 1974

Establishment of Proposed Power Sources
Advisory Group (PSAG)

1. OTS/D&E/CB is responsible for the programming and execution of the Agency's Centralized Power Sources Activity. To support this responsibility a Power Sources Activity Group (PSAG) is being established with the approval of D/OTS. The inputs from PSAG will strengthen the budgeting and planning for the activity, will insure responsiveness to priorities, will minimize duplication of effort and will provide the best possible technical and product information to customers.

Power Sources Advisory Group

The Power Sources Advisory Group (PSAG) is an informal advisory body to support the Centralized Power Source Activity (CPSA) in planning and conducting the Agency's power source program.

Membership of PSAG will include representatives of those Components involved in the analysis, development, or use of power sources. These Components are OTS, OSI, OD&E, OEL, ORD, and Div D. The PSA staff of OTS/D&E/CB will chair the group and will provide secretariat functions.

PSAG members will (a) recommend activities, (b) coordinate activities, (c) discuss ongoing activities, (d) present requirements, and (e) exchange technical and programmatic information.

Quarterly, one-half day meetings will be held unless experience suggests otherwise. Meetings will be scheduled during the middle of each Quarter to insure major benefits to the succeeding Quarter's programming.

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2. [redacted] will organize and chair the PSAG. The initial meeting of the group will be in January 1975 in the belief that it will be of use in residual technical programming for FY 75.

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